

TOWN Reminder

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Thunderstorms rocked South Hadley

*Downed trees
created chaos
on Monday*

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Mother Nature has been quite uncooperative thus far in 2020, and her wrath grew even more ferocious on the afternoon of June 29. Severe winds and torrential rain rocked the northern portion of South Hadley, leaving dozens of trees uprooted and town employees picking up the pieces.

“The storm came from the north to the south. It was really bad. We all were getting ready for it, but when it came, it sure did come with a vengeance,” said Todd Calkins, District 2 Fire Chief.

The brunt of the storm struck Calkins’ district. He noted that the Knolls, Amherst Road, Sil-

Please see **STORMS**, page 5



Photos by Dalton Zbierski

Fire District 2 Chief Todd Calkins inspects a massive fallen tree on the campus of the Berkshire Hills Music Academy.



Laborers dissect and remove fallen trees near the campus of Mount Holyoke College on July 1.



Fallen trees were a common site in the northern portion of South Hadley this week after Monday afternoon’s storm wreaked havoc.

Open Meeting Law complaint filed in response to anti-racism statement

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY –An Open Meeting Law violation was filed on June 30 against the South Hadley Selectboard for its statement it released condemning racism.

On June 24, the Selectboard called on the community to stand in solidarity with Black South Hadley residents.

The board vowed to “seek out and address” any aspects of racism that may be prevalent in town, calling on residents “to not only commit to non-racist behavior but to commit to acting in anti-racist ways whenever racism is encountered.”

Last Wednesday’s letter was signed by members of the Selectboard with the exception of Bruce Forcier, who filed the Open Meeting Law violation complaint two days later.

During the June 30 meeting, Forcier said that the complaint was filed due to the fact that the letter was released publicly outside of a Selectboard meeting.

At Town Administrator Mike Sullivan’s recommendation, the board voted unanimously to recognize the statement, enabling it to discuss the matter. Chair Jeff Cyr offered his perspective on the topic.

“I just want to thank all the members of the public that have sent letters, emails, phone calls and texts in support of what the Selectboard’s stance is on racism in the community of South Hadley,” said Cyr. “It is unfortunate that we’re dealing with this particular item. How this will flush itself out; it’s going to be forwarded to the Attorney General’s office for their opinion on it, and we’re going to get feedback from there.”

Selectboard member Sarah Etelman expressed frustration with Forcier for being unwilling to join the other four members in signing the letter.

“I’m not sure what the push-back is from Selectman Forcier,” said Etelman. “If this is going

Please see **OML COMPLAINT**, page 7

Work in progress



Photo by Dalton Zbierski

Progress is being made on the construction site at the future home of the South Hadley Senior Center.

South Hadley senior center construction making strides

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Excitement is brewing as work progresses on the new South Hadley Senior Center. The former structure has been demolished, and construction on the new building is well underway.

The new center is being built on the site of its predecessor, located at the corner of Fulton

Street and Dayton Street. Leslie Hennessey, Executive Director of the Council on Aging, said thus far she’s been impressed by the project’s expediency.

“They’ve completed excavation for the footing in the walls and have formed and poured the foundation walls,” said Hennessey. “We actually have walls; the sub-walls. You can’t build anything without walls. Things are moving right along.”

As was originally predicted in 2019, it is expected that the

Please see **SENIOR CENTER**, page 6

SHCTV launches pre-election miniseries

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The state and federal elections may still be months away, but South Hadley Community Television is making an effort to equip residents with the knowledge that they need to participate.

On July 1, SHCTV launched the first of five programs that will familiarize voters with absentee ballots, early voting and in-person voting on election day.

Priscilla Mandrachia, a volunteer poll worker, narrated the July 1 edition. She explained why the mini-series was created and how it will benefit residents.

“In this new world of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Massachusetts State Legislature has been hard at work to ensure we can all vote safely, in addition to all the other safeguards around our fundamental right to vote,” said Mandrachia. “The actions of the legislature, as well as those at the local level, are being put in place for you; for your safety and to make sure you can select the voting option that is right for you.”

Absentee voting and early voting aren’t to South Hadley, but each option could see additional use this fall on account of the pandemic. Mandrachia ex-

plained that both techniques will allow voters to avoid the large crowds that traditionally form at polling sites on election day.

“This year, there is increased emphasis on making sure that the entire process of casting ballots is safe for us and for you,” she said. “As a South Hadley resident, you must be registered to vote in South Hadley in order to vote in either the primary or the federal election. If you aren’t currently registered, there are registration deadlines before each election.”

The deadline to register for the September 1 primary election will fall on August 12. One must register by October 14 to participate in the federal election.

Questions can be referred to Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin, who is accessible at chamlin@southhadleyma.gov or 413-538-5017.

It is unclear when the next four programs will be released, but Mandrachia offered a description of the content that the five-part series will cover.

“Channel 15 will be running an ongoing series of short programs throughout the summer,” she said. “Each program is designed to give you the information you may need to make an informed de-

cision about which method of voting will be the right one for you.”

The July 1 program is titled “What are my options for voting in September and why are all voters receiving absentee ballot applications.” This year, the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will mail applications for absentee ballots to all voters in the state.

The applications will be mailed out on July 15. Voters who choose to an absentee ballot will receive the ballot in the mail and must complete it at home before submitting it again through the postal service.

Applications will cover both the September 1 and November 3 elections. Mandrachia noted that the information will be important for individuals who don’t plan to vote in the September primary and only expect to participate in the federal election.

She expressed confidence in absentee ballots, stating that they’ve been used throughout the country for many years and “are proven to be a save and reliable way to vote.” She listed an incentive to make use of an absentee ballot this fall.

“Because of COVID-19 many people have concerns about being in crowded public places. South Hadley has a

proud tradition of voting, and the high school is a very busy place every election day,” said Mandrachia. “The Secretary of State’s Office, together with the Governor and the state legislature, wants to make sure that all voters know about absentee ballots and are able to easily choose that option if they wish.”

Again, all registered voters should expect to receive an absentee ballot after they are mailed out on July 15. If one does not receive a ballot, he or she is encouraged to contact the the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at sec.state.ma.us/ele or 1-800-462-VOTE.

Before the conclusion of the July 1 program, Mandrachia previewed what content the next edition of the program. All content can be found on SHCTV’s Facebook and Vimeo pages.

“On our next program, I’ll step you through the application itself to highlight what you need to fill in as well as what you need to leave blank,” said Mandrachia. “For now, just remember that you are receiving an application; not a ballot. Please hang on to it in case you decide you want to submit the application.”

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

WeMEAN issues statement on making schools equitable

REGION – Scott Beaulieu, President of the South Hadley Education Association and Robbin Lamorder, President of the Granby Education Association, on behalf of the Western Mass Educators Action Network (WeMEAN) issued the following statement.

Last November, our Commonwealth celebrated the passage of the Student Opportunity Act, a broadly supported landmark piece of legislation committing the state to a \$1.5 billion investment in public schools over the next seven years to better meet the needs of all students.

That seems like a lifetime ago.

Our education landscape has fundamentally changed as districts grapple to keep students safe while we wait for a vaccination to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The traumatic upheaval brought on by the rapid need to transition to remote learning has further exposed the inequities within our public education system. And those inequities, especially hard felt in schools serving black and brown communities, are even more alarming as the country confronts its long, brutal history of systemic racism.

The problems that the Student Opportunity Act addressed not only still exist but are even more dire. Public schools

will need more resources and personnel to successfully meet the needs of students as we continue to deliver lessons remotely and strategize a safe return to school buildings. And as protest after protest have made clear, to us—those who educate your children – it is imperative that public education is at the center of the work necessary to create a more just, fair and caring society. That means having more black and brown teachers in all our public schools. That means public school districts working with black and brown communities to develop socially and culturally relevant curricula for students of all ages.

Now more than ever, we need a robust investment in the educational needs – from technology to nutrition – of underserved populations.

Resources must be available to provide the appropriate opportunities for students along the entire educational spectrum, no matter where those students live. Necessary staffing and resources must be available not only for academic achievement but also for students’ social and emotional well-being.

The Western Massachusetts Educators Action Network (WeMEAN), a coalition of more than 30 locals of unionized public-school educators from more than

two dozen communities, recently shared its concerns with state legislators examining remote learning and planning for the safe return to school buildings.

WeMEAN believes that public education is the foundation of our communities and our democracy and demands that the necessary steps be taken for public schools to emerge from these dark times even stronger. First, we must recover, and then we must thrive.

To achieve that, parents, educators, community members and leaders must all work together to secure the federal funding that will be necessary to stabilize our state economy hard hit by the financial impact of the coronavirus crisis. And our state leaders must properly allocate funding so that our public schools are fully supported.

Understanding what that support entails will require the input from a broad range of stakeholders. This must include the often-overlooked input from teachers, education support professionals, counselors, nurses, and school staff – and of course students and their families. That is the only way to make sure that the myriad needs in our public education system are clearly understood by both decision makers and those most closely affected by education policy.

Now is the time for all of us to resist the false narrative of failing schools; now is the time for all of us to seize the opportunity to create a public education model that is transformational and progressive in its inclusivity; and now is the time for all of us to be vigilant about providing students with the education that they deserve and taking collective action to deliver that.


As we move through a period of transitions toward an improved, revamped model of public education, it is also important that authentic teaching be allowed to flourish and that rigid standardized testing be placed on hold, if not outright dropped once and for all. Above all else, educators want our students to succeed and thrive, and that process looks quite different from student to student. Student success relies on teacher expertise, not on standardized test scores. We need a public education system that recognizes the unique needs of individual students and places more value on the personal relationships that spark learning than on tests that measure narrow skill sets.

Now more than ever is the time to create public schools that are academically strong, socially just and universally equitable.

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Correction

In the College Notes section, Alex Richard Frank's name was spelled incorrectly in the June 26 issue of the Town Reminder.

Thank you
Dear God,
Dear Jesus,
St. Jude and
Holy Spirit,
for all
my blessings.
T.D.S.

Thank you
Dear God,
Dear Jesus,
St. Jude and
Holy Spirit,
for prayers
answered.
T.D.S.

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Leadership, lack of oversight identified in Soldiers Home investigation

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Fault has been found with the former management of the Holyoke Soldiers Home and the state Secretary of Veterans Affairs has resigned as a result of an independent report conducted by the Baker-Polito administration.

In a news conference on Wednesday afternoon, Gov. Charlie Baker announced that an independent firm found that the Soldiers Home administration, led by former Superintendent Bennett Walsh, failed to properly handle a coronavirus outbreak that led to many veterans in the home getting infected, with 76 deaths resulting.

Once Walsh was removed and Baker placed new interim leadership at the home, things began to improve and there are currently no residents or staff of the Soldiers Home with COVID-19.

The report, written by Boston Attorney Mark Pearlstein, was 174 pages long and included more than 100 interviews with witnesses from staff to family members of veterans.

In the summary, Pearlstein states that in addition to the 76 veterans who died from the coronavirus, 84 more veterans were infected and more than 80 staff members also tested positive.



Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Markers with small American flags are placed at the base of the driveway to the Holyoke Soldiers Home. 76 veterans living at the facility have died, and a recent report places the blame on the previous administration.

The report places the blame of the outbreak on Walsh and his staff.

“Superintendent Bennett Walsh and his clinical and administrative teams failed in their mission, or that the Commonwealth’s oversight of the Home was insufficient,” the report states. “However, our analysis of the Home’s preparations for response to COVID-19 in light of existing public health recommendations has identified substantial errors and failures by the Home’s leadership that likely contributed to the death toll during the outbreak.

“Indeed, some of the critical decisions made by Mr. Walsh and his leadership team during the final two weeks of March were utterly baffling from an infection-control perspective, and were inconsistent with the Home’s mission to treat its veterans with honor and dignity.

The report also found fault with the oversight, which included the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services.

Veterans Services Secretary Francisco Urena was asked to resign Tuesday night prior to the report being made public. He gave his resignation, which Baker announced he had accepted Wednesday.

When the outbreak occurred, Walsh was placed on administrative leave and the Board of Directors at the home sought to have Walsh removed permanently. But Walsh cited a lack of due process since he could not have a proper hearing during the pandemic. A judge granted an injunction.

The report stated that Walsh was not qualified to run the home in the first place.

Among the faults the report found, two locked dementia units were used and veterans were placed in those units with varying COVID-19 statuses. There was a failure to properly isolate those that had COVID-19, delays in closing common spaces, and delays in testing when veterans were showing symptoms of the virus.

Baker plans to have further discussion about the Soldiers Home and how to address the situation on a permanent basis. There is also a petition circulating in the region seeking for the Baker-Polito administration to make major improvements to the facilities at the Soldiers Home.

Big E cancelled

SPRINGFIELD – The staff and trustees of Eastern States Exposition have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Big E for the safety of our fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors, suppliers and the broader community according to a press release Monday.

There is precedent in the Exposition’s 104-year history when the fair was put on hold during WWI and for five years during WWII. They’ve made it through difficult times before...the Flood of 1936... the Hurricane of 1938 and, 9-11, and together “we’ll get through these unprecedented times as well,” according to the press release.

“We know our faithful fairgoers will be disappointed,” the release reads. “This decision was difficult and complex but we all know in our hearts that it’s the right thing to do for the health and safety of the 1.6 million people who support us each year.”

The next Big E will be from September 17 to October 3, 2021.

All purchases for the Zach Williams concert, scheduled for September 20, will be refunded in full. The Big E Box Office will be contacting ticket purchasers directly.

MASSPIRG Students part of nationwide effort register thousands

REGION – As the nation’s largest and most diverse group of potential voters, young people will have the opportunity to shape the upcoming election. However, COVID-19 presents challenges to registering new voters. To that end, the Student PIRGs launched the New Voters Project, a nationwide effort to help register and mobilize the youth vote to turn out in November. The kickoff featured a live streamed panel of student leaders and elected officials, including Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman and Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

More than 300 student interns and volunteers will join the Student PIRGs’ New Voters Project this summer, working in more than 15 states with college campuses, cities and states to make it easier and safer for their peers to vote in November during COVID-19. MASSPIRG Students is excited to make Massachusetts schools major leaders in this effort.

“While young people have varying interests, concerns and passions, making our voices heard this November is something

we all can agree on,” said Kate Murray, MASSPIRG Intern at Mt. Holyoke, “We are excited to work with a diverse group of student groups that represents our campus.”

The New Voters Project is working with a diverse coalition of campus groups to turn out the vote – from Offices of Civic Engagement, to PanHellenic societies, to the Chancellors and Presidents. With COVID-19, the efforts will be mostly online and will emphasize safe voting practices, like vote-by-mail.

COVID-19 poses huge challenges to normal voter registration efforts. With many colleges and universities opting for online learning this fall due to COVID-19, young people have an opportunity to reach their peers in new and creative ways online. MASSPIRG is gearing up for a big phone bank and voter registration effort next week to launch the grassroots initiatives, as well as continuing to work with First Year Experiences to talk to incoming Freshmen.

MASSPIRGs interns and volunteers will organize virtual events for upcoming

primaries, work with other campus groups to prepare registration drives when school starts, and call on election officials to make voting safe during the pandemic. Later in the fall, they will organize large virtual trainings, panels and events around National Voter Registration Day, Vote Early Day and other key registration deadlines.

The Student PIRGs New Voters Project is partnering with the Democracy Summer, led by Rock the Vote, an effort that aims to register and mobilize 200,000 new voters over the summer.

Despite young people historically turning out in fewer numbers, Manny Rin, director of Student PIRGs’ New Voters Project, is excited to change that in 2020.

“Right now, young people are fired up -- going to protests and signing petitions. But we need to make sure we make our voices heard on Election Day as well,” said Rin, “In an online world, young people are uniquely set up to organize others. It’s time we show the country that we are America’s largest generation, and we vote!”

ERA Laplante Real Estate adds new associate to team

SOUTH HADLEY - ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate would like to introduce Katie Orszulak as a new member of our team.

“We’re delighted to have Katie join our award-winning team,” said Steven Laplante, owner. “As a resident of South Hadley, it’s the perfect fit to have Katie join the number one Office in South Hadley.”

Katie, while developing her real estate career, continues to work as a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) at MassMutual Financial Group.

This professional experience instills in her the same skills required to provide the best experience when buying or selling a home - expert negotiation, transparent




Courtesy photo
Katie Orszulak

and timely communication, and above all honesty and integrity. Outside of real estate, she takes pride in giving back to the community that she was born and raised in a variety of ways.

She is most proud of being a mother to her eight-year-old, Emmett, and six-year-old Julianna.

As part of ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate, Katie is able to offer home buyers and sellers a wide variety of valuable products and services including home warranty plans, the ERA Sellers Security Plan and more throughout Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin counties and beyond through ERA’s international referral network.



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To all of our members, patrons, families and friends we hope that you are all doing well. The summer is here and we all want to enjoy it and we hope that you do, but most of all Please Stay Safe and Healthy. Enjoy and God Bless!

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325

22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA

For
ALI BRUSO

My beautiful daughter
4/30/52 to
4/4/2012

Love you
and miss you.
Think of you
everyday.

Love, Mom,
Shannon &
Matt, Bethany,
Jeremy and
Lindsay
and all your
grandchildren

EDITOR'S DESK

Leave fireworks
alone this year

Everyone loves a celebration with a bang. Whether it's the pop of a champagne cork, the slam of car doors from anticipated party guests, to colorful and patriotic displays of fireworks, seemingly anything worth celebrating ends up with some form of explosive behavior. And what's not to love? Especially on the Fourth of July, the celebration of our nation's independence, there's something special about seeing prolonged, kaleidoscopic displays of fireworks; about hearing the thunderous applause; about feeling the booms, pops and cracks, sometimes from miles away.

Such celebrations truly are spectacular, full-body, sensory experiences. Especially when you don't have to work the next morning. But fireworks, being explosive, are also spectacularly dangerous even when handled appropriately, and this year, with restrictions placed on social gatherings, most permitted displays by licensed professionals have been canceled or postponed to a date to be determined.

The state's Division of Fire Services and Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey reminds residents that fireworks are illegal to possess and transport into Massachusetts, even if legally purchased elsewhere. More importantly, the week of the holiday is historically among the busiest times for fires and children younger than 15-years-of-age account for one-third of the severe burn injuries that require hospital visits.

According to DFS data, in the past decade, there have been 858 major fires and explosions resulting in 12 civilian injuries, 40 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.9 million.

Last year, on July 2, 2019, the Taunton Fire Department was called to a fire in a single-family home. The fire began while the homeowner was building wooden racks to launch illegal fireworks from his deck. The racks surrounded him on the deck. One of the fireworks exploded and set off many other fireworks. The detonations ignited the deck. Two days later on the Fourth of July, the Boston Fire Department was called to a fire in a three-unit apartment building. The fire was started by fireworks on the front porch. The following day, July 5, 2019, Boston Fire again responded to a three-unit apartment building when neighbors reported fireworks ignited a fire. The fire began on the back of one building and extended to another three-unit apartment building next door. Twenty people were displaced from their homes by the fires and damages were in excess of \$700,000.

More than a fire hazard, igniting fireworks also poses serious safety risks that can result in injury or death. Even when handled properly by professional crews, explosives don't always go off according to plan and the results can be catastrophic.

According to DFS data, from 2010 to 2019, 37 people have been treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burn injuries from fireworks – burns covering 5 percent or more of the body. Thirty-three percent were children age 14 or younger. An additional 22 percent were youth aged 15-24. The youngest victim was a 7-month old boy. Victims are scarred for life.

Last year, a 29-year old Charlton man received burns to 9 percent of his body and puncture wounds to his back from a fireworks explosion. State Police confiscated a large cache of illegal fireworks from his home. A 4-year-old Boston girl received severe burns to her hand when grabbing a lit sparkler someone else was holding.

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks, which are sometimes falsely called "safe and sane" fireworks. Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs. Sparklers burn at 1,800 F or higher. It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks

Please see **FIREWORKS**, page 6



GUEST COLUMN

Weed less by planting groundcovers

It's amazing the amount of growth crabgrass can put on in just a matter of weeks. Although it feels like I was just out there weeding, I must admit that some of my gardens are inundated with it. Had I been a better mulcher this past spring, it's likely I wouldn't have this problem. Unfortunately, however, mulch is only a temporary solution to our weeds. To really be effective in our ornamental gardens it must be "refreshed" or top-dressed each year. This can amount to a great expense if large areas of the yard need to be covered. Instead of mulching so much consider using groundcovers. When used appropriately they can keep down the weeds and add another dimension of interest to the landscape. Best of all, there is one to fit every situation: sun or shade, wet or dry!

One of my favorite groundcovers is Ajuga or bugle weed. It smothers weeds by quickly forming a dense carpet of foliage. The most common type has burgundy leaves and medium blue flower spikes in late spring. Variegated varieties are also available as are those that bloom in white or pink. It hugs the ground except when in flower. Plant in sun or partial shade anywhere that the soil remains evenly moist. Spring or fall division is fine; set new clumps nine inches or more apart.

Another very effective yet underused groundcover is sweet woodruff. Galium odoratum grows to a height of six to eight inches. Leaves are shiny green, and grow in delicate whorls. When crushed they release a vanilla fragrance. For this reason sweet woodruff was a popular strewing herb during Elizabethan times. It also is the main ingredient in May wine. Tiny, star-shaped flowers are delightful in May and June. Plant in a shady spot where moisture is sufficient. Divisions are best made in the spring months.

Periwinkle or vinca is a well-known groundcover suitable to many locations in the landscape. As long as your soil is well-drained periwinkle will thrive there, whether it be in sun or shade. Shiny, dark green

IN THE
GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

leaves are produced on shoots that root easily along the surface of the soil. In no time at all a thick mat will form, choking out weeds and even desirable plants in its path. Cut back hard or even mow to keep in check. Quarter-sized violet blue flowers cover the foliage in late spring. Divide anytime but remember to water transplants well until they are established.

Lamium or dead nettle is another groundcover of interest. Both its flowers and variegated foliage make it worthy or cultivation. The term "dead" refers to the plants inability to inflict pain when touched, unlike the other nettle, which of course is aptly named stinging nettle. My two favorite forms of this plant have yellow flowers. Yellow archangel forms more clumps, reaching the height of 10 inches, whereas 'Variegatum' spreads quickly by runners and grows about 14 inches tall. Both have splotched foliage and unique, hooded blooms in late spring. When planted in full sun dead nettle requires moist soil. In shadier locales it tolerates dry soil very well. Utilize it under shade trees where grass will not grow. Underplant with late blooming tulips or daffodils for an incredible show.

For more information on these and other groundcovers, consult "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press, \$24.95). Great pictures and detailed cultural information will reinvigorate you, even this late in the season, and even if crabgrass has got the best of your garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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A QUOTE

of NOTE

“ With the restrictions we have for COVID-19, and so many things we can't do or look forward to, this is something that is always moving forward and always getting a little bit bigger every time I stop by to see it. Time will pass, [the pandemic] will end, and we'll be in a big, new building soon. ”

Leslie Hennessey, Executive Director of the Council on Aging in the story "Work in progress, South Hadley senior center construction making strides."

OPINION PAGE/
LETTERS POLICY

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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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TOWN
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Senator Lesser joins colleagues to pass elections bill for voting safety during COVID-19

BOSTON – Senator Eric P. Lesser joined colleagues in the Senate on June 16 to unanimously pass legislation to expand voter access and address safety for all remaining 2020 elections, including the September 1, 2020 state primary and November 3, 2020 general election, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Senator Lesser acted as the lead Senate sponsor and authored an amendment that was adopted establishing a mail ballot request online portal for residents. The bill was originally filed in the House by Representative Michael J. Moran, Second Assistant Majority Leader, and Representative John J. Law, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, in collaboration with a large coalition of voting-rights organizations.

The bill, An Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, would, for the first time in state history, give all eligible residents the opportunity to vote early for the state primary and general election, allow residents to vote-by-mail, and expand absentee ballot access.

“Voting is a sacred constitutional right and we have an obligation to make sure our elections will be conducted safely,” said Senator Lesser. “COVID-19 has disrupted our way of life. A lot has changed and a lot has closed, but there is one thing about our society that cannot be canceled, delayed, or changed. On the first Tuesday of November, we vote for our leaders. Through wars, pandemics, and natural disasters, the American people and the people of Massachusetts vote. That is a sacred right and it is the foundational right on which every right depends. This legislation lays out a clear process for making sure the 2020 elections are conducted safely and with maximum participation.”

The bill does the following:

- Implements an early vote-by-mail system: An application to receive an early voting ballot will be mailed to all registered voters by July 15, 2020. The Secretary will then mail another application for the general election in the voter booklet sent out in the fall. Both applications and

- ballots will be postage paid.
- Creates early voting for the primary and expands early voting periods: For the first time in Massachusetts, early voting will be available for the state primary, to take place from Saturday, August 22, 2020 through Friday, August 28, 2020. Early voting for the general election would take place from Tuesday, October 17, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020. Early voting hours would vary according to the size of the municipality in order to give voters ample opportunity to participate while not overburdening small towns’ election departments. Voters may return their early voting ballot in the mail, in a secure drop box, or in person.
- Tasks the Secretary of State with creating an online portal: The bill requires Secretary Galvin’s office to create an online portal by October 1, 2020 to make it as easy as possible for people to apply for general election early voting ballots electronically.
- Expands absentee voting: The bill provides for absentee voting by any person

taking precautions related to COVID-19. Voters may also return absentee ballots via a secure drop box.

Provides tools to assist clerks: Acknowledging the increased burden these options may place on municipalities and clerks, the bill also provides for several accommodations to make the logistics of processing votes easier. The legislation allows for tabulating ballots prior to election day, and it offers pre-addressed envelopes to voters, so their applications go directly to their clerk’s office.

Makes in-person voting more efficient: The bill allows municipalities to consolidate polling places and eliminate the check-out table at these locations, allowing for a more efficient process and fewer poll workers. It also expands who is eligible to serve as a poll worker, knowing that many current volunteers are seniors who may feel less comfortable working in public during COVID-19.

The legislation must now be reconciled with the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

STORMS from page 1

ver Street, College View Heights, Hadley Street, South Sycamore Knolls, North Sycamore Knolls, Sycamore Knolls, Sycamore Park and sections of the Mount Holyoke College campus were among the most heavily hit roads.

After weeks without rain, torrential downpours saturated and loosened the soil. Unusually heavy gusts compounded the problem; Calkins described the unique phenomenon that unfolded in South Hadley on Monday between 3 and 5:30 p.m.

“The winds definitely came from north to south, which is not normal. That’s the opposite of what we normally get for wind. From what I’ve been told, trees are accustomed to wind direction; you add that to the substantial rain. It was just different to everybody the way the trees broke and were uprooted; very healthy trees,” said Calkins.

Fortunately, no injuries were sustained as a result of the storm. Multiple trees, however, fell into or struck buildings, and large parts of Evergreen Cemetery were covered by broken limbs.

First responders reacted immediately to reports of damage on June 29, as calls flooded the two dispatchers at the police station on Bridge St. Calkins analyzed the department’s response to the situation.

“We just cleared roads as best as pos-

sible. We went to all of the houses that had potential limbs or trees that either hit the house or the service lines. We were communicating with South Hadley police with that list [of damaged properties] to prioritize for [South Hadley Electric Light Department] because, obviously, they can’t get to everything,” said Calkins.

While fire trucks are equipped with saws, first responders could not remove all of the downed trees immediately. Emphasizing that “you’re never too big to get hurt by electricity,” Calkins and his colleagues waited for clearance from the electric light department.

“It’s so important for people not to go near the trees once they’re down because there could be lines involved,” he said. “Even if it’s a cable or telephone, all lines are considered ‘hot,’ meaning electricity. You don’t know what else they’re touching. There could be a limb that pushed the primary or secondary wires into those so we, as firefighters, consider all lines to be ‘hot’ until a professional comes on scene and says, ‘Guys, continue because this is safe.’”

Calkins acknowledged that the linemen are running on fumes but voiced his opinion that, “SHELD is one of the best electric light departments in the area.” He went on to thank all of the town employees that assisted the 15 District 2 firefighters who responded to three pages of calls during Monday’s storm.

“One good thing about this town is that when the emergencies happen, everybody works together; the DPW, the police, the water departments, the fire departments, Electric Light. It’s a small enough community that everyone knows we have to get the roads cleared,” said Calkins.

On a side note, Calkins reminded residents to call 911 during emergencies instead of the fire station itself. He clarified why one must always call dispatch even if only to report damages caused by fallen trees.

“We can’t stress enough that emergencies should go through the right channels, and 911 is the right way to do it,” said Calkins. “The dispatchers at the police department are trained for emergency medical dispatching and prioritizing and knowing what to do at the time. They knew we were all out [on call] so they would communicate with either myself or my radio operator on what’s going on.”

Calkins believes that gusts on Monday afternoon may have reached 60 miles per hour but does not yet have the data necessary to evaluate the storm. Regardless of what the statistics are, Calkins is sure that Monday’s storm was one to remember.

“I’ve been involved in a lot of storms. This came and went pretty quick, but these winds were something else,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Chief Todd Calkins

All across District 2, trees were split or uprooted following Monday afternoon’s storm.



All across upper South Hadley, dozens of town and private workers spent the week removing trees that fell on June 29.

Photo by Dalton Zbierski

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CLUES ACROSS

1. African nation

7. ___ fi (slang)

10. Not arranged according to size

12. A demand for a show of hands in a card game

13. Having a play of lustrous rainbowlike colors

14. Panama has one

15. Taking legal action

16. Top of the body

17. Part of (abbr.)

18. Soul and calypso song

19. Murres

21. Irish river

22. Accepts as true

27. The Bay State

28. 1950s Hollywood icon

33. Blood type

34. In a way, became lost

36. Large primate

37. A spongelike cake leavened with yeast

38. Mama ___, folk singer

39. Visual metaphor (computers)

40. Trim by cutting

41. Small group of people

44. Pulitzer-winning scientist

45. Unique S. American mammal

48. Energy, style and enthusiasm

49. One who works for you

50. Snakelike fish

51. Consumers

CLUES DOWN

1. Cylindrical sacs

2. Extinct North Germanic language

3. Late rocker Allman

4. Word element meaning ear

5. Amino acid (abbr.)

6. Promotions

7. Actress Lathan

8. Clothed

9. Unwell

10. Loosen

11. Cephalopod mollusks

12. ___ at Obdurata: Harmful papal bull

14. Musical composition

17. Irish bar

18. Greek island

20. Afflict

23. Goes by

24. Ambience

25. Video game manufacturer

26. Surplus Marketing Administration

29. Football position

30. Electronic musical style (abbr.)

31. Furniture with open shelves

32. Clouds of gas in outer space

35. Indian midwife

36. Packers’ signal caller

38. Secret political clique

40. Cry weakly

41. Gomer ___, marine

42. Academic Bill of Rights

43. Negatives

44. Hip hop icon Kool Moe ___

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

SENIOR CENTER from page 1

project will be completed by April 2021. The COA is currently basing its operations out of St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish on East Parkview Drive, but has disallowed visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the difficulties that the pandemic brought about, COA employees and South Hadley seniors remain enthusiastic regarding the new center. It is Hennessey's hope that the state-of-the-art facility will open not long after the COVID-19 threat is vanquished.

"It feels really exciting to go down there and look at that progress," she said. "With the restrictions we have for COVID-19, and so many things we can't do or look forward to, this is something that is always moving forward and always getting a little bit bigger every time I stop by to see it. Time will pass, [the pandemic] will end, and we'll be in a big, new building soon."

Hennessey is not the only resident that is enthused by rate the of the project. Selectboard Chair Jeff Cyr spoke briefly on the subject during the board's June 30 meeting.

"The project is coming along nicely," he said. "If anyone has had an opportunity to drive by, it's starting to spring out of the ground, which is great to see. I believe



Photos by Dalton Zbierski

With construction on the new senior center flowing swimmingly, the state-of-the-art facility is still expected to open on target in 2021.

the project is still on schedule as planned."

Hennessey added that a number of residents have called or messaged her, sharing their observations of the construction site. Heavy equipment and mounds of dirt fill the property, but in the near future a \$7.7 million facility will welcome the town's seniors.

"I invite folks to go down there and just look at it and envision what the future will be like. Not only are we going to all be back together, we're all going to be back together in a building that's designed for older adults," said Hennessey, alluding to the old center, which was built to be a

schoolhouse in the 1920s.

"We're going to open this beautiful building, and it's going to be ready," she continued. "It's going to be new and shiny; we're going to have some of our standard and well-loved programs. Then, we'll be able to branch out into some newer programming in bigger spaces; spaces that were designed for that. I hope people are looking forward to that."

In the meantime, the COA is hard at work, coordinating meal services and facilitating a variety of virtual programs. Hennessey is unsure of when exactly seniors will be able to access St. Theresa's



Construction is underway at the Fulton Street and Dayton Street property which will be home to the new South Hadley Senior Center.

again, but emphasized that the staff can still be reached remotely.

"Everything is running smoothly. We were able to add on telephone and conferencing to our Zoom programs," said Hennessey. "That opened them up to even more older adults in the community; folks who don't necessarily have computers but do have a phone and are able to be a part of the conversation. We're all still working and the staff will do call backs and emails."

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



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REAL ESTATE



FIREWORKS from page 4

must be confiscated on the spot.

This year, there is much to celebrate, particularly as the state is seemingly making progress in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Celebrate explosively with friends and family, following public health guidelines, of course. Just leave the real explosives behind and give our emergency responders a break. Together, let's have a safe, healthy and happy Fourth of July.

WE PLEDGE

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• Babies with an opioid dependency	• Addicted Babies/Born addicted
• Substance use disorder or addiction • Use, misuse • Risky, unhealthy, or heavy use	• Drug habit • Abuse • Problem
• Person in recovery • Abstinent • Not drinking or taking drugs	• Clean
• Treatment or medication for addiction • Medication for Opioid Use Disorder/Alcohol Use Disorder	• Substitution or replacement therapy • Medication-Assisted Treatment
• Positive, negative (toxicology screen results)	• Clean, dirty



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COLLEGE NOTES

Students named to the University of Vermont Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT – To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school. Taylor Gelinas and Alexandra Swetland, both of South Hadley.

Students Earn Degrees from the University of Vermont

BURLINGTON, VT— Some 3,183 students were awarded degrees during the University of Vermont's 220th commencement ceremonies. The class's academic achievement was saluted online with remarks from UVM President Suresh Garimella, Vermont Governor Phil Scott, and university and state leaders. Locally, Delaney Pluta of Granby and Alexandra Swetland of South Hadley were among those who graduated. Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors, world-class researchers, scholars and artists, bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Ver-

mont, one of the nation's most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university educating 10,700 undergraduate students, 1,627 graduate students, 776 certificate and non-degree students, and 478 M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.

Tess Gauthier Receives Degree from Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, GA – Tess Gauthier of South Hadley, has earned a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Gauthier was among approximately 4,050 undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees during the Spring 2020 semester. One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next--the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well equipped to imagine and engineer our future. More than 36,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top five public universities by U.S. News and World Report. For more information visit www.gatech.edu.

OML COMPLAINT from page 1

to become something to tear the board apart, then let's wait until next week [for discussion]. Again, Bruce, you're laughing, and I don't think that it's funny. I don't understand why you want to cause a problem over this issue when we're trying to do something positive." Forcier said he did not sign the letter because it was not appropriately released, which led him to file the subsequent complaint. He added he endorsed the philosophies that the letter promotes and felt as though his character is under attack for his actions. "I object to the comment 'tear the board apart,'" said Forcier, speaking directly to Etelman. "The racist hatred that was put on me; you're fine with that?" Etelman stated that she hasn't "seen any of that," and Cyr seconded her observation. Selectboard member Christopher

Geraghty spoke, however, in defense of Forcier. "I had heard from some upset residents and I just encourage them to reach out to Bruce directly rather than [make secondhand comments]," he said. "Then again, I did get a lot of emails in support of us submitting the statement." Etelman also thanked the residents of South Hadley for backing the board's June 24 statement. She explained that the board has received an "avalanche of support" applauding the letter. "They were all positive and supportive letters thanking the Selectboard for taking a stand and for encouraging and demanding that the town continue to look at what we can do better, how we can do better, and I am committed to standing with our residents who want us to do better," said Etelman. More information pertaining to the complaint is expected to be publicized in the coming days or weeks.

Living through history

Local elementary students share their thoughts on COVID-19

SOUTH HADLEY – Much like the rest of the world, children have gone through the pandemic and are experiencing history being made from their homes.

Third graders from Mosier Elementary School were tasked with a writing assignment about their thoughts and feelings surrounding COVID-19, according to teacher Allyson Saul. This poem could be in any form the students wished and submissions included haiku, acrostic, shape, free verse and rhyming poems. The assignment was created by Leah McCarthy.

By Keller McMahon
Corona we can get through this
Corona we are strong
Stay strong and stay safe

By Zivile Pagan
I want Corona to stop, when will it stop.
I want to go back to places and play with my friends.
The only thing is when will it stop!

By Nora Proulx
Care for all the sick people
Outstanding people helping others
Ready, set go! Who will get the toilet paper first?
On the hunt for cleaning supplies
Never ever touch your face
Anywhere you go, six feet apart

Very sick people dying
Incredible people
Rough times
Unbelievable times
Super bored when you're at home

By Sierra Edwards
Homework
One step at a time
More time together
Enjoying family

By Ava MacDonald
School's closed-can't see friends.
Worried we won't go back to school.
Doing homework is a struggle.

By Sam Galik
We are staying home.
The virus is very bad.
Stay home and be safe.

By Simon Lorenz
I do not like the coronavirus.
I do not like not playing with my friends.
I do not like wearing a mask.
I do not like that I can't see family members.
I do not like people dying.
I do not like school work at home.

I do like the warm weather.
I do like my dog.
I do like my family.
I do like playing outside.
I do like technology so I can see my friends and teachers.
I do like watching movies with popcorn.
I do like watching netflix.
And I think I do actually like going to school.
I miss life before coronavirus.

By Nolan Brown
It is the year 2020
I've been stuck at home for weeks
Sometimes I'm low in the valleys
Other times I'm high on the peaks

I can't go to school
I want to see my friends
I hate Coronavirus
I can't wait till it ends

When this is over
I will ride my bike
I will have fun doing that
Maybe I will do it with my dad's buddy Mike

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Valley Wheel gets ready for July 9 start



League veterans hit fly balls to the rookies at the June 28 practice at Blunt Park in Springfield.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Valley Wheel League rookie players lineup to take fly balls.

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League has one final tryout on July 5 at 12 noon at Blunt Park in Springfield. The league still needs players as it plans to resume play with the first game scheduled for Thursday, July 9, and continuing through August.



Josh Catter throws the ball back to the infield.



Steve Scibelli follows through on a throw after making a catch.

PVSSL ready to play at start of Phase 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is starting to take shape, and if all goes according to plan, the league will be able to start up just after the Fourth of July holiday.

Registration has now closed for the league for the summer and the full schedule of games is being finalized.

Gov. Charlie Baker wanted two weeks of data from Phase 2, part 2, which was centered on allowing limited indoor dining.

Phase 3, at minimum, could have started earlier this week before the slight delay. But trends have continued to be positive in Massachusetts, as well as the nearby Tri-State area.

Once league play begins, it will go through the month of July and into early August with the same eight-team playoff format.

League Commissioners Chris and Diana Kolodziey were adamant since May they wanted to have a season, even if it was delayed or a bit shorter.

The exact game schedule was not available as of press time, but it could be anywhere from six to 10 games. The normal regular season schedule has often been 10 or 11 games. Kolodziey said while the high school league rarely played games on the weekend, weekends would be utilized this summer in order to fit in as many games as possible.

One difference than in previous years due to many obvious reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The A Division for high school boys will consist of many teams that are normally involved, including Ludlow, Belchertown, Agawam, Wilbraham, and Chicopee. Pittsfield and Enfield are among newcomers to the league this year.

In the girls A Division, West Springfield, last year's champion, leads a field that includes Agawam, South Hadley, Monson, Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Belchertown. Enfield joins the league for the first time.

In the B Division, there are usually more teams. There are much fewer this summer. The Boys league has 12 teams. Palmer, South Hadley, Ludlow C, Agawam, Belchertown, and Wilbraham all have B teams. Enfield also joins with a B team.

The girls B Division will also feature a new Enfield team, along with Chicopee Comp, Granby, Wilbraham B, Ludlow B, Belchertown B, Agawam B, and

Please see **PVSSL**, page 11

WSU planning Owl Golf Tournament

WESTFIELD – Registration for the 14th Annual Owl Club Golf Tournament is now open.

The tournament proceeds support Westfield State University varsity athletics and is slated for Monday, August 3, 2020, at The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, Mass.

“Feedback from our alumni and regular players was overwhelming that they wanted us to run the tournament again this year, even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Associate Athletic Director Dave Caspole. “We consulted with the Ranch, and campus officials, and given that golf is an outdoor activity that can be conducted within the state’s reopening phases, we’ll run the tournament in the safest, most socially-distant ways we can while following all of the state and local guidelines.”

The tournament will feature an individual cart for each player, and the start is scheduled to have tee times rather than the typical shotgun start in order to limit the size of groups gathering. A maximum of 18 four-

Please see **GOLF**, page 11

Questions still surrounding athletics return this fall

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – A fall season is being planned for, but it is still unclear what one might look like under the new landscape of a COVID-19 “new normal.”

According to numerous sources, Massachusetts is just one of a few states that is on a good track to lowering the infection rate of the coronavirus and keeping the healthcare system from being overloaded.

But as individuals wish to “head back on the field,” it leaves a lot of questions, which are jointly being considered by high schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Their first move was to postpone the use of MaxPreps as a ranking system for teams. It is supposed to a method used to provide uniformity as the state goes to a statewide tournament system and eliminates the sectional tournament format.

In Massachusetts, summers sports like baseball are looking to open up as part of Phase 3 and hold some type of competition.

But schools have still received a lot of guidance for how

things will need to look in the fall, leaving a number of schools to consider whether a portion of their learning will be done remotely, as it was done during the past three and a half months.

Schools closer to Boston and possibly schools with larger populations like in Springfield will have to more seriously consider online options for school. The MIAA will then have to consider what that will do for eligibility requirements to play a sport. They will also have to consider transportation and other elements.

Normally, an individual must attend school by a certain time in order to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day. Many teams also require a player participate in practice the day before in order to be eligible to play. But if a player is not required to physically be in school, how will that be handled by the MIAA?

The “New Normal” until a vaccine has been secured for the coronavirus will still likely involve requiring individuals to wear masks or face coverings and to socially distance whenever possible.

In certain sports, like football, contact is inevitable. Foot-

ball also draws large crowds on a Friday night, and those will need to be controlled as well.

The MIAA has already appointed a COVID-19 Task Force that is looking at many of these issues. The Task Force has not held a formal meeting like many of the MIAA sub-committees, but has issued some different guidance on opening sports.

The Pioneer Valley is represented on the committee by Carol Kruser, the principal of Chicopee High School.

Among the measures that have been brought forward so far: Schools will have the right to choose how their academic eligibility for the fall will be based on since formal grading was set aside during the final three months of the school year. Chemical health suspensions are being waived for the spring. Anyone currently serving any type of suspension will receive credit for “time served” for the spring season.

As of press time, the fall season is scheduled to start on Monday, Aug. 24. Football practices will begin on Friday, Aug. 21. A Q&A done by the MIAA also states that championship venues are set to host games this fall as of now.

► Business

Obituary ◀

A healthy donation



Stop & Shop's "Food for Friends" campaign donated \$42,000 to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts during the COVID-19 pandemic to help those in need.

Stop & Shop donates to Food Bank of Western Mass

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION – During the months that have encompassed the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been a pivotal resource for thousands of residents. The massive operation recently benefited from Stop & Shop's "Food for Friends" campaign to the tune of \$42,442.

"We are proud of the strong relationship that Stop & Shop and the Food Bank has forged over the past 30 years," said Maura O'Brien, the grocer chain's manager of external communications and community relations. "For every dollar donated, the Food Bank is able to provide the equivalent of four meals to those in need. This donation will allow the Food Bank to provide 170,000 meals across our communities."

Located in Hadley, the Food Bank is a critical meal source for dozens of food pantries and distribution programs spread across western Massachusetts. Lillian Baulding serves as Communications and Engagement Officer for the Food Bank; she explained how the operation works.

"We partner with food pantries and meal sites in the region and provide food that they, in turn, can distribute to their clients. The food will also go out through our Mobile Food Bank program," said Baulding. "We distribute in food deserts in the region with Stop & Shop's support. We provide free foods in various locations throughout all four counties of the region."

Over the course of three decades, Stop & Shop's donations have enabled the Food Bank to purchase millions of meals. As the economy succumbs to one of the country's worst pandemics, and unem-

ployment rates soar, Stop & Shop's contributions are taking on new significance. "Stop & Shop is committed to eradicating hunger in the communities we serve," said O'Brien. "Across the Northeast, we work year-round to support our regional food bank partners, local food pantries, and schools in need to provide assistance to members of our community who are food insecure."

As a result of this year's "Food for Friends" campaign, Stop & Shop donated over \$1.3 million to facilities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Baulding commended the business for its unwavering dedication to the community.

"Stop & Shop has been a long-time supporter of the Food Bank. They've been very philanthropic in terms of how they do relieve food insecurity in the region," she said. "Aside from this donation, through the Stop & Shop Family Foundation, they also support our Mobile Food Bank initiative. They're also the sponsors for our annual "Will Bike 4 Food" cycling event. They've been so supportive, and we can't thank them enough for this donation as well as their ongoing support."

Locally, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry in South Hadley is heavily reliant on the Food Bank. Baulding further described the nature of the Food Bank and cleared up several common misconceptions.

"A lot of times people don't understand the difference between a food bank and a food pantry," said Baulding. "Just as a regular bank gives out money to people, the food bank distributes food to our members, who in turn distribute it to their clients. A lot of people when they come to visit the warehouse for the first time are blown away by how big the operation really is."

For more information on the Food Bank, one can visit foodbankwma.org.

Shirley Ann (Schoen) Burdzy, 84

SOUTH HADLEY— Shirley Ann (Schoen) Burdzy, 84, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on June 24, 2020 at her daughter's home in Sutton. Shirley was the daughter of the late Elmer and Florence (Brod-fuehrer) Schoen, she was born in Buffalo, New York on March 22, 1936.

Shirley (Shirl) was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She had a heart of gold and a spirit of giving. She was an active member of St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley and the Women's Guild. She was a faithful Eucharistic minister as well as volunteer of many years at Holyoke Hospital. She was active at the Senior Center in South Hadley. She enjoyed her bowling league, playing cards, reading, swimming and an occasional visit to the casino. She never missed an opportunity to attend a party or celebration. Shirley loved to craft, knit, sew, build and was joyful to discuss her latest project. She was especially proud of the handmade ceramic dolls and dollhouses she meticulously crafted.

Her sense of adventure always had her calendar booked with travel plans. Helicopter rides over volcanoes in Hawaii, and exploring the Grand Canyon, Texas, Amish Country and Maine. She especially enjoyed recent travels with her granddaughter Kristin to the Netherlands, Hungary, Austria and Germany.

Shirley will be dearly missed by all who knew her, including her loving children, Joseph Burdzy III of Edgewater, Florida, Mark Burdzy and Mary Hennessey of Belchertown, Matt Burdzy and his wife Leslie of South Windsor, Connecticut, and Cheryl Hamel and her husband Jeffrey of Sutton; her grandchildren, Kristin, Nicholas, Mark Jr, Christina, Sean, Janel, Aimee, Derrick, and Joel; her great grandchildren



Sophia, Lila, Anthony Jr., Gabriel, Megan, Adrian, Jacob, and Ariya; her sister-in-law Janet Annibal and husband Al of New Jersey, her brother-in-law Ted Tencza and his daughter, Lynn of Connecticut; as well as many nieces and nephews in Sarasota, FL and many other extended family members and friends. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her loving husband Joseph Burdzy Jr. and her two siblings, Joyce Peterson and Michael Schoen. A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, July 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, 30 Main Street, South Hadley.

In compliance with local and church requirements, we kindly would like to remind you that masks are required by all attendees throughout the duration of services. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Beers & Story Funeral Home entrusted with Shirley's arrangements.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Council on Aging, 9 East Parkview Dr. South Hadley, MA 01075. Checks can be made out to: Friends of South Hadley Seniors. Online donations can be made to Western Mass Elder Care, Nutrition program (Meals on Wheels) at <https://www.wmeltercare.org/donate-now/>. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the doctors and nurses that gave Shirley compassionate care, Holyoke Hospice and Beacon Hospice.

For more information, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Death Notice

Burdzy, Shirley A. (Schoen)
Died June 24, 2020
Memorial Mass July 2, 2020
St Patrick's Church

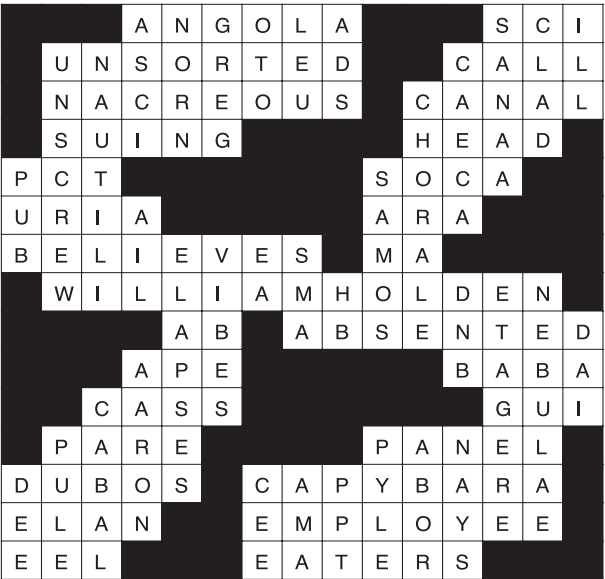
BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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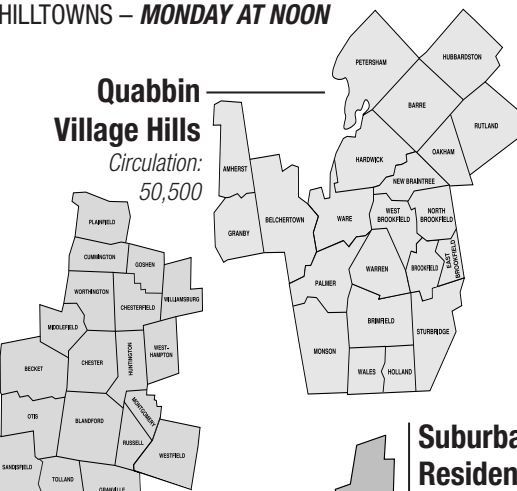
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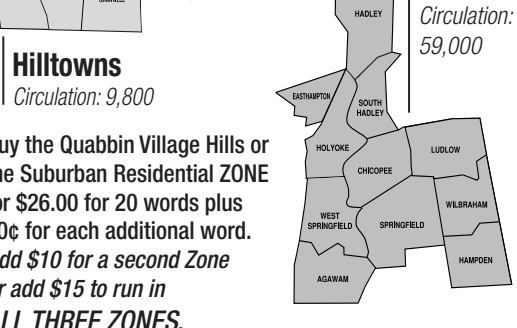
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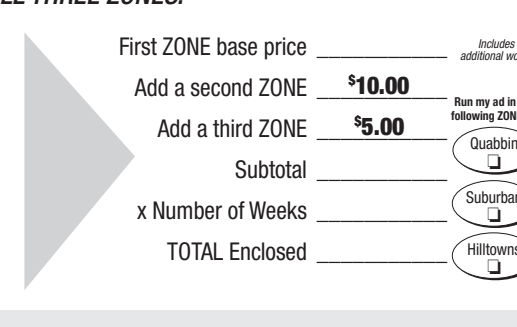
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

GOLF from page 8

somes will be registered this year – half the regular total.

“Registered players will receive a tee gift, get their own cart, lunch will be served on the course, and we will have some contests,” said Caspole, who noted there will not be a post-tournament dinner, again to limit the gathering size.

“We look forward to seeing the alumni, friends, parents and sponsors who regularly participate in the tournament, and given the disruptions that our student-athletes have faced this year, the funds we raise from the tournament will help to get our programs quickly back on track as we look to restart team competitions this fall,” added Caspole. “Westfield Bank is again our lead sponsor for the tournament, and we can’t thank the bank and president Jim Hagan enough for their support of our athletic programs.

The Ranch is a par-72 championship layout that plays about 6,500 yards from the tournament tees in a scramble format.

Last year the tournament was won by the group of Mark Litsky, Carlos Frittano, John Harkings, Anthony Perritano with a 58, winning a match of cards tiebreaker with the alumni group of Bob Verdolino, Ralph Barry, Matt Barry, Joe Seckler.

Registration for the tournament is available online at <https://westfieldstateowls.com/owl-club/golf-tournament/index>

Contact Dave Caspole for more registration information or for sponsorship opportunities at dcaspole@westfield.ma.edu or 413-572-5433.

PVSSL from page8

Hampshire Regional.

The Men’s league will have just seven teams, including Lusitano Red and White and the Rumbleseat. Griffin’s Café is also a returning team.

The women’s division includes the Lusitano Women, Here For Beer, WMass XTremes, and Santos among returning teams.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Public Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – TO BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY/ONLINE

The South Hadley Planning Board, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40-A, Section 11, Massachusetts General Laws as modified by Chapter 53 of the Special Acts of 2020 and the Governor’s Executive Orders pertaining public gatherings during the COVID 19 State of Emergency, will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.** to discuss the Special Permit and Site Plan Review applications of PeoplesBank; 330 Whitney Avenue;

Holyoke, MA 01040. The public hearing will be conducted virtually/online using the Google Meet platform and persons may join the meeting by either joining Google Meet or by phone. **The login information will be provided on the posted agenda for the July 13, 2020 meeting.**

PeoplesBank has submitted an application for Site Plan Review under Article XII of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw to construct and operate a 2,000 +/- square foot bank on the subject property. PeoplesBank has also submitted an application for a Special Permit under Chapter 225-Attachment 1, 255-19, Article VIII, and Article IX of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw

to construct and operate a drive through teller service and an ATM as part of the proposed bank facility. Additional elements of the development include parking, landscaping, utilities, Stormwater management systems, and similarly related items.

The subject property is located along the west side of Newton Street (aka Route 116), north side of Lyman Street, and south side of Dayton Street and identified on Assessor’s Map Number #28 as Parcels #190, #191, #192, #193, # 258, and #260. The property is located in the Business A zoning district and is within the Newton Street Smart Growth Zoning District.

Plans and the application (and supporting

documentation) are on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall. The plans and application (and supporting documentation) are also posted on the Planning & Conservation Department’s “Project Plans M through Z” page on the Town’s website www.southhadleyma.gov in a section titled “**Newton Street (468-480) - New Peoples Bank Branch with Drive Through - 2020**”.

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard regarding, this application should appear at the time and place designated.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
6/26, 7/03/2020

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1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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Send your stories and photos to mbourdeau@turley.com

Faces & Places



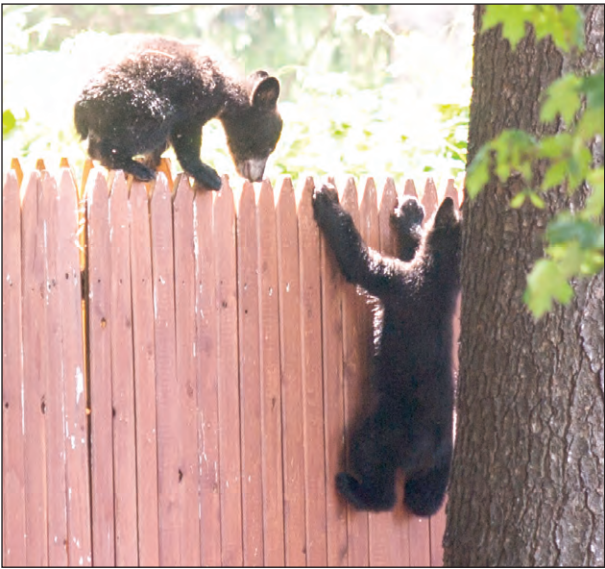
According to photographer Kari Hutchinson, a mother bear sat in the backyard on lookout while her cubs climbed in the trees.



A mother bear and her three cubs paid a visit to Kari Hutchinson's neighborhood.



Kari Hutchinson and her neighbors watched a mother bear and three cubs climb on trees and go throughout the yards in their neighborhood last week.



Three cubs climbed trees and ran throughout the yard in Kari Hutchinson's neighborhood last week.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS	\$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	79¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE FAMILY PAK	\$2.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STOREMADE 80% LEAN HAMBURG PATTIES 20 COUNT 4 OZ BOX	USDA INSP. FROZEN VARIETY PAK CUT UP CHICKEN 15 LB BOX	69¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE 1/2 CHICKEN ITALIAN MARINATED	\$1.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STOREMADE 80% LEAN HAMBURG PATTIES 20 COUNT 3 OZ BOX	USDA INSP. FROZEN ASSORTED PIES APPLE CHERRY PEACH	\$2.99 ea
USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED	\$2.29 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 41/50 CT 2 LB BAG	\$7.99 ea
USDA INSP. 2 LB BOX KAYEM HOT DOGS	\$7.99 ea			
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